

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-14 and 16-25, CANCEL claim 15 and ADD new claims 26-28 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A publication certifying system, comprising:
an information providing server ~~comprising~~including a published information storing function of storing published information to be provided as electronic data, and a published information bulletin function of providing ~~said~~the published information to an information terminal accessing over a communication network in order to view ~~said~~the published information; ~~and,~~
a viewing-access-log recording server ~~comprising~~including a viewing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining ~~said~~the published information viewed on said information terminal over ~~said~~the communication network and an access date/time to ~~said~~the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtained by ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtaining function; and
a publishing-access-log recording server including a publishing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information, and a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtaining function further obtains terminal information about said information terminal having accessed to ~~said~~the published information as ~~said~~the viewing-access-log.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein said viewing-access-log recording server further comprises a message-digest creating

function of creating a message digest of ~~said~~the published information obtained by ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtaining function; and

~~said~~the viewing-access-log storing function stores ~~said~~the message digest as ~~said~~the published information in ~~said~~the viewing-access-log.

4. (ORIGINAL) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein one server fulfils both a function as said information providing server and a function as said viewing-access-log recording server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein

said viewing-access-log recording server further comprises an enciphering function of enciphering ~~said~~the viewing-access-log to be stored by ~~said~~the viewing-access-log storing function using a secret key of said viewing-access-log recording server to put a digital signature to ~~said~~the viewing-access-log.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1 further comprising a digital-signature server comprising a time-stamp adding function of adding a time stamp to ~~said~~the viewing-access-log, and an enciphering function of enciphering ~~said~~the viewing-access-log added ~~said~~the time stamp thereto using a predetermined secret key to put a digital signature to ~~said~~the time-stamped viewing-access-log; and

~~said~~the viewing-access-log storing function storing ~~said~~the time-stamped viewing-access-log to which the digital signature has been put by said digital-signature server.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1 further comprising a digital-signature server comprising a time-stamp adding function of adding a time stamp to ~~said~~the viewing-access-log, an enciphering function of enciphering ~~said~~the viewing-access added ~~said~~the time stamp using a predetermined secret key to put a digital signature to ~~said~~the time-stamped viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~the time-stamped viewing-access-log to which the digital signature has been put by ~~said~~the enciphering function.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1

further comprising at least one information terminal for access-to-view for periodically having an access of viewing ~~said~~the published information in said information providing server in order to intentionally leave a log of the access of viewing ~~said~~the published information in said viewing-access-log recording server.

9. (ORIGINAL) The publication certifying system according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of said information terminals for access-to-view are disposed in a plurality of countries, respectively.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 8, wherein said information terminal for access-to-view is connected ~~to~~with ~~said~~the communication network via a server of an Internet service provider.

11. (ORIGINAL) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein a proxy server of an Internet service provider comprises a function as said viewing-access-log recording server.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein a person, who desires to publish information, transmits identification information and a password beforehand given to ~~said~~the person to said information providing server over ~~said~~the communication network, and said information providing server confirms ~~said~~the person on the basis of ~~said~~the identification information and ~~said~~the password, then stores and publishes ~~said~~the information as ~~said~~the published information.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 12, wherein ~~said~~the identification information and ~~said~~the password are described on a prepaid card purchased by ~~said~~the person.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 13, wherein a remaining amount of time of ~~said~~the prepaid card corresponds to the number of times information is published in said information providing server.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein said viewing-access-log recording server ~~also fulfills~~ executes a function as said publishing-access-log recording server, ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log obtaining function ~~functions as~~ executes ~~said~~ the publishing-access-log obtaining function, and ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log storing function ~~functions as~~ executes ~~said~~ the publishing-access-log storing function.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The publication certifying system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log storing function stores ~~said~~ the published information included in ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log in a compressed form.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A viewing-published information access-log recording server, comprising:

a viewing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining published information viewed over a communication network and an access date/time to ~~said~~ the published information as a viewing-access-log; and

a viewing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log obtained by ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log obtaining function;

a publishing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information; and

a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The viewing-published information access-log recording server according to claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log obtaining function further obtains terminal information about an information terminal having accessed to ~~said~~ the published information as ~~said~~ the viewing-access-log.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The viewing-published information access-log recording server according to claim 18 further comprising a message-digest creating function of creating a message digest of ~~said~~ the published information obtained by ~~said~~ the viewing-access-

log obtaining function; and

~~said~~the viewing-access-log storing function storing ~~said~~the message digest as ~~said~~the published information in ~~said~~the viewing-access-log.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~viewing-published information~~ access-log recording server according to claim 18 further comprising an enciphering function of enciphering ~~said~~the viewing-access-log to be stored by ~~said~~the viewing-access-log storing function using a secret key of said ~~viewing-published information~~ access-log recording server to put a digital signature to ~~said~~the viewing-access-log.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A publishing-access-log recording server, comprising:
a publishing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining information transmitted to and published in an information providing server over a communication network and a publishing date/time of ~~said~~the information as a publishing-access-log; and
a publishing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~the publishing-access-log obtained by ~~said~~the publishing-access-log obtaining function.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A digital-signature server configuring a publication certifying system with an information providing server comprising a published information storing function of storing published information to be provided as electronic data, and a published information bulletin function of providing ~~said~~the published information to an information terminal accessing over a communication network in order to view ~~said~~the published information, ~~and~~ a viewing-access-log recording server comprising a viewing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining ~~said~~the published information viewed on said information terminal over ~~said~~the communication network and an access date/time to ~~said~~the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtained by ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtaining function; and

a publishing-access-log recording server including a publishing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information, and a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function said digital-signature server comprising:

a time-stamp adding function of adding a time stamp to ~~said~~the viewing-access-log; and
an enciphering function of enciphering ~~said~~the viewing-access-log added ~~said~~the time stamp using a secret key of said digital-signature server to put a digital signature to ~~said~~the time-stamped viewing-access-log.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The digital-signature server according to claim 23 further comprising:

a viewing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~the time-stamped viewing-access-log to which the digital signature has been put by ~~said~~the enciphering function.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information terminal for access-to-view configuring a publication certifying system with an information providing server comprising a published information storing function of storing published information to be provided as electronic data, and a published information bulletin function of providing ~~said~~the published information to said information terminal accessing over a communication network in order to view ~~said~~the published information, ~~and~~ a viewing-access-log recording server comprising a viewing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining ~~said~~the published information viewed on said information terminal over ~~said~~the communication network and an access date/time to ~~said~~the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtained by ~~said~~the viewing-access-log obtaining function, and a publishing-access-log recording server including a publishing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information, and a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function;

said information terminal for access-to-view periodically having an access of viewing ~~said~~the published information in said information providing server in order to intentionally leave a log of the access of viewing ~~said~~the published information in said viewing-access-log recording server.

26. (NEW) A publication certifying system, comprising:

an information providing server including a published information storing function of

storing published information to be provided as electronic data, and a published information bulletin function of providing the published information to an information terminal accessing over a communication network in order to view the published information; and

a viewing-access-log recording server including a viewing-access-log obtaining function of obtaining the published information viewed on said information terminal over the communication network and an access date/time to the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing the viewing-access-log obtained by the viewing-access-log obtaining function; and

wherein a person, who desires to publish information, transmits identification information and a password provided to the person to said information providing server over the communication network, and said information providing server confirms the person on the basis of the identification information and the password, and stores and publishes the information as the published information,

the identification information and the password are described on a prepaid card purchased by the person; and

a remaining amount of time of the prepaid card corresponds to the number of times information is published in said information providing server.

27. (NEW) A method of certifying a publication, comprising:

associating information of the publication including temporal data indicative of when the publication became accessible as electronic data and access information indicative of when an access is made to the publication; and

certifying the publication in accordance with the association of the information of the publication and the access information.

28. (NEW) An apparatus for certifying a publication, comprising:

means for associating information of the publication including temporal data indicative of when the publication became accessible as electronic data and access information indicative of when an access is made to the publication; and

means for certifying the publication in accordance with the association of the information of the publication and the access information.